

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the following numbered paragraphs with the following rewritten paragraphs:

[17] Figure 1 illustrates a general perspective view of a helicopter rotor system 10 which includes a hub assembly 12 to be driven for rotation about an axis of rotation ~~13~~ Δ . A plurality of main rotor blade assemblies 14 project substantially radially outward from the hub 12 and are supported therefrom in conventional fashion by an attachment 15. A longitudinal axis F is defined along a longitudinal length of each main rotor blade assembly 14. Any number of blade assemblies 14 may be used with the rotor system 10. It should be understood that although a particular rotor system 10 is illustrated in the disclosed embodiment, other attachments, flex beams, main and tail rotors will benefit from the present invention.

[21] Referring to Figure 4, a sectional view of the tip section 20 is illustrated. The tip section 20 includes a splice cap 34, a tip spar 36, a core 38, and an upper and lower non-structural tip skin 40, 42 (also illustrated in an exploded format in Figure 5). The tip spar 36 is preferably the only structural component within the tip section 20. The splice cap 34 is mounted around a leading edge portion 30F of the main rotor main blade spar 30 and the tip spar 36 is mounted around a trailing edge aft portion 30A of the main rotor main blade spar 30.

[23] The tip spar 36 preferably includes a first surface 46 substantially parallel to a second surface 48. The first and second surfaces 46, 48 each extend from a shear web 50 therebetween to define the generally C-shape in cross section. The shear web 50 generally carries rotor blade torsional loads and eliminates the heretofore required structural core. The shear web 50 preferably conforms to the trailing edge portion 30A of the main rotor main blade spar 30.

[27] The tip section 20 is mounted to the central section 18 by mounting the tip spar 36 to the main blade spar 30. The tip spar 36 is mounted to the main rotor blade spar 30 through bonding, however, other removable attachment arrangements will also benefit from the present invention such that the tip section 20 is field replaceable.

[28] Referring to Figure 5, a section S1 of the tip spar 36 and the splice cap 34 overlaps a section S2 of the main rotor blade spar 30. That is, sections S1, S2 define a length along the main rotor blade spar 30 and a length of the tip spar 36 and the splice cap 34 which fit in a male female relationship. Preferably, the center of the overlap is located at approximately 91.5%R (Figure 2). It should be understood that other overlap length and locations will also benefit from the present invention. The inner perimeter P1 of section S1 and the outer perimeter P2 of section S2 are preferably reduced such that the tip spar 36 and the splice cap 34 follow the contour of the shape of the tip spar 36 and the splice cap 34 to form a flush surface joint ~~is formed therebetween~~ (Figure 4). It should be understood that other interfaces will also benefit from the present invention. The tip section 20 thereby transfers the loads carried thereby through interaction between the interaction of the sections S1 and S2.